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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 27, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 22 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first eight weeks of 1986 was an estimated 134.4 billion ton-miles, up 3.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 22 totaled 364,368, down 5.3 percent from last year, and 0.2 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 6.4 percent in the East, 7.5 percent in the South, and 3.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 6,609 cars (7.1 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 15 totaled 95,193 trailers and/or containers, 11.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seven weeks of the year was 634,273 trailers and/or containers, up 14.3 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/22/86:

	Loadings in Week ended February 22, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,631	D	1,334	6.1	D	2,543	11.0
Other farm products	2,493	D	1,068	30.0	D	416	14.3
Metallic ores	12,232	D	480	3.8	I	833	7.3
Coal	112,815	D	8,609	7.1	I	6,567	6.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,587	D	297	3.0	I	753	8.5
Nonmetallic minerals	6,190	D	1,965	19.4	D	1,293	13.6
Grain mill products	10,454	D	63	0.6	D	451	4.1
Food and kindred products	10,208	D	568	5.4	D	694	6.4
Primary forest products	11,337	D	2,193	16.2	I	380	3.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,440	I	461	6.6	I	137	1.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,614	D	873	5.9	I	368	2.7
Chemicals and allied products	24,026	D	694	2.8	D	806	3.2
Petroleum products	4,162	D	250	5.7	D	1,088	20.7
Stone, clay and glass products	8,716	D	1,312	13.3	I	161	2.1
Coke	4,704	D	176	3.6	D	298	6.0
Metals and products	8,553	D	415	4.8	I	600	7.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,307	I	886	4.0	I	471	2.1
Waste and scrap materials	6,472	D	637	9.0	D	317	3.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,101	D	1,551	23.3	D	570	10.1
All other carloads	57,999	I	1,001	1.8	D	2,663	4.4
LCL traffic	123	D	30	19.6	D	12	8.9
Total Cars loaded	364,366	D	20,449	5.3	D	861	0.2
Corresponding week of 1985	364,617						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars loaded (8 weeks)	2,889,800	2,787,491	I 3.7

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 Weeks ended February 15	117.2	111.7	I 5.0
Week ended February 22	16.8	17.8	D 5.5
8 weeks cumulative	134.1	129.5	I 3.5

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